



2008

**EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**34567 SEVEN MILE ROAD  
LIVONIA, MI 48167**

CHURCH STAFF FOR 2008

Pastor: Rev. Walter Dickinson

Director of Music: Dorothy Trent

Contemporary Worship Leader: **Valorie McCune**

Youth and **Family** Ministry Director: Rebecca Couser

Parish Education Director: Judy Cook

Secretary: Marilyn Kramer

Assistant Secretary: Laurie Davis

Nursery Attendants: **Colleen Bonner, 9:30**

**Custodians:** Paul Nielsen (left due to health reasons 10/01/2008)  
and Bill Boone (start date 1 1/01/2008)

CHURCH COUNCIL OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

President.. .....Jeff Enderlen

Vice-President.. .....Al Miller

Secretary.. .....Patric k **"PJ"** Colbeck

Treasurer .....Debra Radloff

Supporting Members:

Chris Bak

Linda Carrier

Jenanne **Currie**

Bruce Nieman

Dan **Putman**

Brian **Radloff**

FINANCIAL SECRETARY..... **Allan Bassett**

# CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

*EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH*

February 14 and 15, 2009 -Convened at end of each worship service

## AGENDA

1. Call meeting to order
2. Approval or **disapproval** of minutes of previous Annual Meeting and/or Special Congregation Meetings
3. Budget
4. Recommendations by Church Council on items/resolutions raised at Informational Meeting (s)

## **October 5, 2008 Congregational Meeting**

The minutes for the 5 October 2008 Congregational Meeting are as follows:

Opened: 9:30 am

- Alan Miller chaired the meeting presented a review of the call process and recommendations,
- The call team responded to questions and answers from the congregation.
- The congregation was presented with the following ballot:

**“Should our congregation of Emmanuel Lutheran Church extend a pastoral call to Pastor Scott Sessler?” Yes or No**

- Congregational members submitted ballots containing their respective votes.

Closed: 10:10 am

The results of the vote were presented during the service after the congregational meeting. These results were that 113 confirmed members of the congregation voted unanimously “Yes” to this proposal.

**Emmanuel Lutheran Church  
Congregational Meeting  
Building program additional \$45k funding proposal  
Saturday April 26 and Sunday, April 27, 2008**

Meeting was called to order at 5:52 p.m. by Secretary PJ Colbeck

PJ led the congregation in an opening prayer.

Cyril Van Loke explained the Building Program additional funding proposal and ballot to the congregation.

A motion to vote on the additional funding ballot was made and supported by members of the congregation. Motion passed and vote **was** taken.

A motion to recess the meeting **was** made and supported by members of the congregation. Motion passed and the meeting was recessed at 5:59 p.m.

Meeting was resumed at 9:03 a.m. by President Jeff Enderlen

Jeff led the congregation in an opening prayer.

Cyril Van Loke explained the Building Program additional funding proposal and ballot to the congregation,

A motion to vote on the additional funding ballot was made and supported by members of the congregation. Motion passed and vote was taken.

A motion to recess the meeting was made and supported by members of the congregation. Motion passed and the meeting was recessed at 9:13 a.m.

Meeting was resumed at 10:34 a.m. by President Jeff Enderlen

Jeff led the congregation in an opening prayer,

Cyril Van Loke explained the Building Program additional funding proposal and ballot to the congregation.

A motion to vote on the additional funding ballot was made by PJ and supported by member of the congregation. Motion passed and vote was taken.

A motion to recess the meeting was made and supported by member of the congregation. Motion passed and the meeting was recessed at 10:44 a.m.

Meeting was resumed at 12:12 pm by President Jeff Enderlen

Jeff led the congregation in an opening prayer.

Cyril Van Loke explained the Building Program additional funding proposal and ballot to the congregation.

A motion to vote on the additional funding ballot was made and supported by members of the congregation. Motion passed and vote was taken.

A motion to recess the meeting was made and supported by members of the congregation. Motion passed and the meeting was recessed at **12:22** p.m.

Jeff Enderlen counted the votes and the results were:

Building Program additional funding proposal passed — 88 Yea, 18 no and  
1 Abstentions

Respectfully submitted by Jeff Enderlen.

**Emmanuel Lutheran Church  
Congregational Meeting  
Saturday December 6 and Sunday, December 7, 2008**

Meeting was called to order at 5:46 p.m. by President Jeff Enderlen

Jeff led the congregation in an opening prayer,

Amendments to Church Constitution ballot were explained and congregation voted.

Election to Church Council of Patty Graff, Kimm King, Bob Kotrba, Jim Messineo And Travis Nixon ballot was explained and congregation voted on.

Motion to suspend the meeting was made and supported by members of the congregation. Motion passed and the meeting **was** suspended at 5:51 p.m.

Meeting was resumed at 9:07 a.m. by President Jeff Enderlen

Jeff led the congregation in an opening prayer.

Amendments to Church Constitution ballot were explained and congregation voted.

Election to Church Council of Patty Graff, Kimm King, Bob Kotrba, Jim Messineo And Travis Nixon ballot was explained and congregation voted on.

Motion to suspend the meeting was made and supported by members of the congregation. Motion passed and the meeting was suspended at 9:13 a.m.

Meeting was resumed at 10:39 a.m. by President Jeff Enderlen

Jeff led the congregation in an opening prayer.

Amendments to Church Constitution ballot were explained and congregation voted.

Election to Church Council of Patty Graff Kimm King, Bob Kotrba, Jim Messinec And Travis Nixon ballot was explained and congregation voted on.

Motion to suspend the meeting was made and supported by members of the congregation. Motion passed and the meeting was suspended at 10:46 a.m.

Motion to recess the meeting was made and supported by members of the congregation. Motion passed and the meeting was recessed at 10:44 a.m.

Meeting was resumed at 12:13 p.m. by President Jeff Enderlen

Jeff led the congregation in an opening prayer.

Amendments to Church Constitution ballot were explained and congregation voted.

Election to Church Council of Patty Graff, Kimm King, Bob Kotrba, Jim Messineo And Travis Nixon ballot was explained and congregation voted on.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made and supported by members of the congregation. Motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 12:21 a.m.

Voting Results:

Amendments to Church Constitution: 119 yes, 2 no, 2 abstain

Election of Church Council members: 120 yes, 1 no, 2 abstain

Respectfully submitted by Jeff Enderlen

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

Budget 2009

Account	2008 2008 Budget	2008 2008 Actuals	2009 2009 Proposed Budget	% Diff Budget
<b><u>INCOME (general offerings)</u></b>	\$307,297	<b>\$291,853</b>	<b>\$293,950</b>	-4.3%
interest Income	\$4,000	\$2,014	\$2,000	-50.0%
Holy Cross -Youth Ministry	\$10,000	\$7,497	\$10,000	0.0%
ELCA Mission Grant			\$18,000	
Building Use		\$1,220	so	
Flower Income		\$1,291	\$0	
Reimbursables Income		\$845	\$0	
Other Income		\$3,269	\$1,500	
<b><u>TOTAL INCOME</u></b>	\$321,297	\$307,988	\$325,450	1.3%
<b><u>TOTAL EXPENSES</u></b>	\$321,297	\$303,232	\$325,450	1.3%
<b><u>DIFFERENCE</u></b>				
Senior Pastor Base Salary	\$44,700	\$36,652	<b>\$39,400</b>	
Professional Allowance	\$2,100	\$2,209	<b>\$0</b>	
Housing Allowance	\$19,800	\$16,913	\$20,000	
FICA Allowance	\$4,928	\$4,242	\$4,544	
Pension and Medical	\$7,326	\$6,776	\$25,858	
Supplemental Health and Disability	\$1,798	\$1,545	\$1,726	
Workers Compensation	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>	
Mileage and Travel Expense	\$2,300	\$2,785	<b>\$2,300</b>	
Continuing Education	\$900	\$220	\$750	
<b>Senior Pastor Expenses</b>	<b><u>83,852</u></b>	71,342	<b><u>94,579</u></b>	12.8%
Office Staff I	15,600	14,309	15,600	
Office Staff II	13,000	13,014	10,400	
Music Contemporary	15,463	15,016	15,463	
Music Children's Choir		200		
Music Traditional	17,065	16,907	17,065	
Parish Education	20,560	20,285	20,570	
Youth & Family Director	37,424	34,446	38,320	
Preaching Assistance	5,100	4,100		
Nursery Staff	1,340	193	670	
Custodial Services	5,800	5,307	4,640	
Employer FICA	10,048	8,926	9,389	
<b>Staff Expenses</b>	<b><u>141,400</u></b>	<b><u>132,703</u></b>	<b><u>132,117</u></b>	-6.6%
Mortgage Costs	24,012	24,012	24,012	
Insurance	7,500	7,018	7,500	
Utilities	15,990	18,166	16,000	
Maintenance/Property	5,200	7,851	5,200	
<b>Building Expenses</b>	<b><u>52,702</u></b>	<b><u>57,047</u></b>	<b><u>52,712</u></b>	0.0%

Emmanuel Lutheran Church  
Budget 2009

Account	2008	2008	2009	% Diff
	2008	Budget 2008 Actuals	2009 Proposed Budget	Budget
Evangelism	3,000	2,230	2,500	
Family Ministry	800	329	800	
Social concern	200	119	200	
Fellowship	500	248	500	
Parish Education	4,900	3,135	4,500	
Stewardship	1,400	1,049	1,400	
Worship	3,000	2,979	3,000	
Youth	1,700	2,385	1,200	
Technology	1,400		1,000	
Care Ministry	100		100	
Stephen's Ministries	250		250	
<b>Committee Expenses</b>	<b>17,250</b>	<b>12,473</b>	<b>15,450</b>	- 10.4%
Reimbursables Expenses		645		
Conferences and Retreats	1,300	1,904	1,300	
Postage	2,217	1,790	2,217	
Legal Expense				
Office Supplies	6,425	6,366	6,425	
Flowers Expenses		1,459		
Kitchen Supplies	150	56	150	
Miscellaneous		3,068		
<b>Other Expenses</b>	<b>10,092</b>	<b>15,489</b>	<b>10,092</b>	0.0%
LSSM	2,000	2,000	2,000	
BVC	1,200	1,185	1,200	
Living Waters	800	67	800	
ELCA	12,000	10,927	16,500	
<b>ELCA Benevolence</b>	<b>16,000</b>	<b>14,179</b>	<b>20,500</b>	26.1%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$321,297</b>	<b>\$303,232</b>	<b>\$325,450</b>	1.3%

## Pastor's Annual Report 2008

It's all in the name. We are all known 'by **our** name and Emmanuel's name means 'God with us'. What a gift for a congregation to live and grow with knowing that God is always with us. When I look back not only on 2008 but many previous years, I have **come to** know that Emmanuel also means other things. First, it means faithful. This congregation has been faithful in its ministry to share God's love, not only with its members but also with those we do not know. Second, it means supportive. As your Pastor for many years, I want to thank all of you for your support for me and my family. I know and believe that God has supported us through the relationships with the people who call Emmanuel their church home. Thirdly, it means open to new ideas. I think back on all the things we have done that wouldn't **have** happened without the openness of Emmanuel and its leadership. Starting a Contemporary worship, providing a variety of worship services, putting in a projection system (first in our Synod), being a "permission given" congregation, allowing parents with kids to feel comfortable in worship, and letting our Angels' Place boys inspire us in worship. But, mostly I want to thank Emmanuel for being open to the idea and then putting together a well thought out transition plan for me. What a blessing it has been to work with so many dedicated and faithful people who supported this plan.

As my retirement plan unfolds, I look forward to worshipping, studying, and growing with a congregation that knows God **is** with us. I have known many pastors who have struggled in their congregations over issues large and small. At Emmanuel I can only look back and say what a blessing to be among you. As we look forward, I know I will no longer be writing annual reports and preaching regularly, but I will be blessed to call Emmanuel my church home.

Together we start a new year under new leadership knowing that "God is with us". Each of us needs to be faithful, supportive, and open as we begin this chapter in our history.

Pastor Walt

## Emmanuel Lutheran Church Church Council Annual Report

God has truly blessed this Emmanuel Lutheran Church this year. With the difficult **economic times**, some members losing their jobs and others moving away, the church was still able to have **income** slightly exceed expenses. This was due to a several factors - the congregation stepped up and gave generously, Pastor Walt took three months off without pay, all of the committees and staff efficiently used their budgeted funds and church council carefully managed the budget.

The new addition, which we broke ground on in October of 2007, was structurally completed in June, furnished during the summer and dedicated in September. This new addition will enable the congregation to continue grow and reach out to the community. We are also blessed, that the congregation has been able to keep the Capital Campaign ahead of schedule, thus reducing the **size** of the mortgage the church had to take out at the completion of construction. It is important that everyone continue to give as pledged, so that this new mortgage can be paid off in five years as planned.

Our involvement in the Uplift catechism and youth programs continued with Holy Cross Lutheran Church and was renewed through spring and summer of 2009. Plus, the Hope food pantry program, started last year, has grown such that our congregation is now giving one, two or more grocery carts full of food every week to the pantry. What a blessing this has been for many families during these hard economic times.

It seems hard to believe, that at this time last year, the Transition team was still working on the church profile and we had not yet formed the Call Committee, Yet we have completed the call process and Pastor Scott Sessler has accepted the call to be the pastor of Emmanuel Luther church. This is truly a blessing from God. Plus, Pastor Walt will stay on, in a part-time, unpaid position, to assist Pastor **Scott** for the next year or two. Please keep Pastor Scott, Pastor Walt and the Call Team in your prayers, as we begin a new journey in the spiritual life of Emmanuel Lutheran Church.

The Church Council has also been busy working with the ELCA and Southeast Michigan Synod to obtain a Grant of \$18,000, \$12,000 and \$6,000, over the next three years, to be used to assist us in expanding our ministries in the surrounding communities. I would like to thank Pastor Walt for working with Rev. Jack Eggleston, Assistant to the Bishop of the Southeast Michigan Synod of the ELCA, to obtain this grant. This grant will help us to continue to grow our outreach ministries in this difficult economic environment.

If this wasn't enough, the Church Council updated the Emmanuel Lutheran Church Constitution, moving the selection and election of Church Council members to **early fall**; the creation of the church budget to the late fall, for the following year and included **changes** to **align** our constitution **with** the Model Constitution of the ELCA.

We would like to thank the members of this congregation, who have used their God **given** talents and contributed many hours of their time and financial resources to the church this **year**. With God, all things are possible.

Please continue to pray for the Church Council, Pastor Scott and Pastor Walt, members of our congregation, our fellow Christians in Dongobesh, Tanzania, those serving in the military, the leaders of our Cities, State and Nation, and those still searching for the love and grace of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

In His Service,

*Jeff Enderlen*

Congregation President

#### PROPERTY COMMITTEE

There are many issues that surface when you deal with property. There are always regular maintenance issues cleaning and up-keep and supplies. Over the last several years, we have used the Livonia courts for our Spring and Fall clean-up. They send supervised teams that are doing court-ordered community service.

We, also this year, said good bye to Paul Nielsen, our part-time custodian who left due to health reasons, We welcome Bill Boone, who has stepped in to be our new custodian and thank him for taking good care of our new building.

We continue to contract with TNT for our summer lawn care and winter snow plowing. They continue to provide us with reliable service at a reasonable price.

With the completion of our new building we had many members volunteer their time to help with putting in our brick paver sidewalk, landscaping around our entrance, reworking our sprinkler system, rekeying our doors, cleaning out and organizing our storage room and many other small jobs around the building. Thanks for all your hard work you did a great job!

We thank all of you for your support in helping with the up-keep of our building.

Stewardship Annual Report  
2008

When we think of stewardship we often only think of money, yet it also includes our time and the use of our talents, The people of Emmanuel have given in all these areas.

Our stewardship program lifted up three areas.

1. The gift of our newly completed building Program. What a joy to use these new facilities and continue to see people support it.
2. Then we emphasized the need to support our regular budget. This is not glamorous yet without it we would not have staff, heat, snow removal, and materials.
3. Benevolence was the third area. What a show of compassion as people have given to a wide range of interests that touched their hearts. The list below tells the story. Thanks so much for caring.

ELCA - \$9990.00  
ELCA Hunger Fund - \$1624.00  
LLSM - \$2954.00  
Living Waters (Campus Program) - \$294.00; Scholarships - \$500.00  
LWR - \$850.00  
Angela Hospice - \$305.00  
Angels' Place - \$280.00  
BVC (disabled people who clean the church) - \$1185.00  
Dragston Family Fund - \$2660.00  
Boards for Joshua (Ramp built by Emmanuel members for child with Cerebral palsy. - \$2375.00  
Emmanuel Inn (Christmas gifts for family) - \$630.00  
Funeral Fund - \$700.00  
Good Hope Food Pantry - \$1950.00 plus all food gifts  
Good Samaritan Fund - \$2665.00  
Griffin (family killed by drunk driver in Baltimore) - \$1300.00  
Hamtramack Fund -- coats and gloves  
Leader dogs for the blind - \$30.00  
Livonia Woods Nursing Home - \$378.00  
Memorials - \$2015.00  
Salvation Army - \$850.00  
Seedlings Brail Hook Ministry - \$1899.00  
Special Olympics - \$1015.00  
Stephen's Ministry - \$1745 .00  
Tanzania - \$1141.00  
Wayne County Family Center \$220.00  
1" Step (Home for abused women) - \$72.00

## Christian Education

*Show me your ways, O LORD, teach me your paths; guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.*

*Psalms 25:4-5*

I once heard someone say, "If you truly have a passion for the job you do, you'll never work a single day in your life". After nearly nine years here at Emmanuel, I consider myself sincerely blessed to know and appreciate what that feels like.

Christian Education at Emmanuel has emerged as a ministry covering a wide range of learning opportunities for young and old, beginner to advanced, and everyone in between.

On Sunday mornings, we continue to provide Sunday school classes for all ages, from preschool through adult. Our preschool through 6<sup>th</sup> Grade classes are led using the "Hands-On Bible Curriculum" from Group Publishing, while our Jr. High and Sr. High classes use a variety of resources designed specifically for middle and high school youth. In November, after several weeks of diligent planning, the Jr. High Youth led all four of Emmanuel's service times in a Youth-led worship. The creativity, hard work, and commitment that the kids put into this project were well worth the effort, as the response from the congregation was overwhelmingly positive.

Our Adult Sunday school, led by Roy Finkenbine and Jackie Rau continues to have a good group of dedicated, regular attendees, although there is always an "empty seat" for anyone wishing to join them.

Our summer ministry opportunities for children - *Good News Day Camp* in June, and *Rainforest Adventure Vacation Bible School* in August - experienced another record-breaking year in attendance, with well over half of the children who attended being non-Emmanuel members. Word-of-mouth advertising is doing a great job getting the word out to the community of the incredible children's ministry opportunities we have to offer here during the summer months.

In the adult education arena, Emmanuel strives to offer a variety of study opportunities for anyone wishing to learn more. We continue to provide opportunities offered by other churches in the Livonia area through the UPLIFT Ministry, as well as here in our own church. In 2008, The ELCA announced a new five-year initiative called the "Book of Faith", which encourages churches nationwide to embark on a journey to increase biblical literacy throughout their individual congregations. In November, Emmanuel held its first class, entitled "Opening the Book of Faith". This 7-week course, led by Pastor Walt, had approximately 30 people in attendance, and our hope is that these numbers will increase as the "Book of Faith" initiative moves forward here at Emmanuel.

The ladies' Wednesday morning *Coffee Break* Bible study looked at a variety of resources this year, from the serious (1 and 2 Peter) to the more lighthearted, yet thought-provoking (The Frazzled Female, Bad Girls of the Bible). Women of all ages are invited to join us any time, even if we're in the middle of a particular study - and feel free to bring a friend, too!

Emmanuel's "family-friendly" atmosphere provides us with plenty of opportunities for fellowship events for people of all ages. In 2008, we held our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual "It's Everybody's Birthday Party", in addition to the Easter Egg Hunt, the Ministry Fair, our Church Picnic, and the ever-popular "Trunk-or-Treat" Party.

Perhaps one of the ministries that has seen the greatest growth at Emmanuel is in the area of community service and outreach. Good Hope Lutheran Church in Garden City has been simply overwhelmed by the generosity of our congregation in support of their food pantry; not only with food items, but monetary donations as well. In our struggling economy, it's such a blessing to see so many generous people give of themselves to help others during these difficult times.

The other area of community outreach that has seen growth this past year is Emmanuel's Special Needs Ministry. In the summer of 2008, we received a grant from Mt. Zion Lutheran Church in Detroit, to help us expand our ministry to those with developmental disabilities and other special needs. This past spring, Emmanuel held a 5-session training course for those interested in learning how to work with and teach individuals with special needs. Since that time we have held two special events - a Pizza and a Movie Night in May, which was attended by well over 100 people, and a "Sing and Ring" Christmas event held this past December. In January of 2009 we began a monthly Bible Class for special needs adults, and have a Valentine's Dance scheduled for February as well. Our hope is that we can continue to draw in others from the community so that they, too, can experience God's love and grace in their lives.

Of course, none of these events, classes, or projects would have been possible without the help of so many dedicated volunteers who continue to serve God, this church, and the world with their generous gift of time and talent. I am truly thankful to work with so many people who give of themselves to grow God's kingdom here on earth. Thank-you all so much!

Peace and Grace,

Judy Cook

## **A Report from the Director of Youth and Family Ministry 2008**

“We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well. because you had become so dear to us.” 1 Thessalonians 2:8

God has provided many opportunities for continued ministry here at Emmanuel in 2008. There is excitement with programs and we continue to build on relationships being formed as we journey together and foster our faith. It has been a blessing to have a great network of other youth workers from around the synod to fellowship with and work together in this ministry throughout the year.

We are in our second year of combining many pieces for the Youth Ministry at Emmanuel with activities for Sr. High and Catechism programs with other area churches in Livonia. This has stemmed from the UPLIFT program, The LYTE ministry for Sr. High youth meets for a time of fellowship, fun, music, and God’s word. In the spring this group was meeting on both Sunday and Thursday evenings. In the fall of 2008, Sunday evenings have been the regular meeting time for LYTE. Other events like lock-ins, Bass Lake, and the Lansing Gathering were also opportunities for the Livonia congregations to be together. In May, the congregation celebrated with youth in affirming their Baptism. We had a terrific week at Catechism Camp together at Stony Lake in June. Emmanuel’s Catechism program combines with Holy Cross for its class time as well as activities throughout the year. The Jr. High Youth Quake was a great time for youth to grow in their faith and meet other youth from around Michigan. Again this fall we had a Catechism Retreat to kick off the year. Seeing the growth and relationships formed across congregations is definitely God’s work. We continue to see many students use leadership skills with events and planning pieces such as the Lansing Gathering, Day Camp, VBS, and Peer Ministry for Catechism. We have had 2-3 youth represented on the SE Michigan LYO board. Other highlights have been various fundraisers, the Cedar Point trip, rummage sale, and sending 7 youth to Leadership camps. The Easter Breakfast, lock-ins, concerts, movie nights, 30-Hour Famine, as well as synod-wide events and worship have offered many ways for the youth to serve, and join together for fellowship. This summer July 2009 is the ELCA Youth Gathering held in New Orleans, LA. Currently we have 12 youth from Emmanuel attending, as well as a few adults. Regular monthly meetings and fundraising are staples of building group dynamics and planning for our trip for next summer.

Activities throughout the year for our younger elementary aged youth involved, the Easter Egg Hunt, Day Camp, and VBS, Trunk or Treating, and the Christmas program. All were opportunities for building on relationships and our faith.

MOPS continues to be a representation of the family ministry here at Emmanuel by offering support to young families. Families attended Family Camp in July. In January we had our “Everybody’s Birthday Party” event. This was a wonderful event for all ages to play together and celebrate! The Family BBQ was a highlight of the summer: filled with swimming, food, and fellowship. Once a month Family Worship still continues to offer new opportunities for families to be involved on Sunday mornings.

The Women’s Ministry at Emmanuel continues to plan activities and events throughout the year including Chick Flick movie nights and the Christmas party.

We are excited to see more ministry opportunities in the upcoming year. I thank those who volunteer, contribute monetarily, support, and pray for the youth and family ministry at Emmanuel.

◇◇ Rebecca Couser

## MUSIC MINISTRY and WORSHIP COMMITTEE

We are again blessed with a large number of people involved in the music ministry and the worship life of Emmanuel in a variety of capacities including ushers, readers, assistants, communion preparers, singers, instrumentalists, soloists and handbell ringers.

Emmanuel offers choices in worship opportunities: the 8:00 service is traditional, using liturgies from the Lutheran Book of Worship and With One Voice. 9:30 is a contemporary service, and the 11:00 worship uses a variety of liturgies and services. This year we have added two new liturgies from the new ELCA hymnal, one for the 8:00 service and another for the 11:00 service. This year we have also offered a Saturday evening worship service that has a casual and informal format.

Valorie McCune continues to provide the musical leadership for our 9:30 contemporary service and is ably assisted by Michael Finkenbine and singers and instrumentalists that make up the Praise Team. The group practices on a regular basis.

I continue to play piano and organ for the 8:00 and 11:00 services as well as special services during the year. I direct the adult choir, which rehearses regularly on a weekly basis and provides special and leadership to the 11:00 service.

I also lead two handbell choirs: Joy-Us Bells and Chancel Bells. They play for all three worship services on a rotating basis about once a month.

A worship committee meets regularly to plan special worship services and to oversee the many details that are involved in our different worship services. Pastor Walt and I pick the hymns for the 8:00 and the 11:00 services and Valorie McCune picks the music for the 9:30 service.

I am grateful for the dedication and commitment of the many people involved in our music ministry and worship. It takes many hours of planning and rehearsing by many people to provide the wide variety of music for our worship services. And we do it all, as Martin Luther said, "for the glory of God."

Dorothy J. Trent, Director of Music

### Capital Campaign/Building Fund 2008 Annual Report

At the end of 2008, after the second full year of the five year program, we have received \$389,000. The amount pledged was \$630,000, so, we are ahead of the targeted amount (\$319 thousand) as of 12/31/08. For various reasons some people have completed their pledges to take advantage of IRA tax savings and sales of stock.

There are only 15 families that are behind by \$250 or more. That amounts to (\$15 thousand), but is largely offset by families that didn't pledge but are giving on a regular basis (\$11 thousand). Everyone else is either ahead in their giving or are right on target thus far into the campaign.

In spite of the Michigan economy, thus far, we have been blessed that our congregation has been able to continue this incremental giving. The Capital Campaign committee thanks you for your continuing support.

February 22, 2008

## Call Committee Annual Report

In 2008, a Call Committee was elected by the congregation of Emmanuel to interview prospective pastoral candidates referred by the Bishop of the Southeastern Synod. This committee consisted a cross-section of the congregation; the members were Sara Barth, Angie Colbeck, Mike Finkenbine, Sally Miller, James Murphy, Travis Nixon, Cheryl Phillips, Dan Putnam, Dorothy Trent, and Cyril Van Loke.

The Call Committee began by revising the Congregational Profile that was first drafted by the Emmanuel Transition Team; this Profile was submitted to the synod. The Committee also developed interviewing procedures with the aid of church members that work in human resources. Afterwards, the mobility papers of potential candidates were received and interviews were conducted.

After prayerful deliberation and consideration, the Call Committee recommended the name of Pastor Scott Sessler to the Church Council. The Council and a vote by the congregation affirmed the committee's choice; a call was issued to and was accepted by Pastor Sessler.

Since the call of Pastor Sessler, the Call Committee met to discuss a final report for the Synod house regarding our process. Names of possible church members to create a mutual ministry committee were suggested to Pastor Sessler and Pastor Dickinson. A request to officially dissolve the Committee has been made to Church Council.

## Building Committee 2008 Annual Report

The building committee is pleased to report that the building project is completed and came in within budget. We were very fortunate to work with a great architect (Lindhout) and general contractor (Summit). Every member of this committee contributed their skills, knowledge and time to make this project a success under the guidance of our Lord. The new addition has proven repeatedly to be needed and highly functional. We would like to thank everyone who volunteered in the projects that completed the project and for those who donated to finance it.

God's blessings,

The Emmanuel Building Committee

Dan Putman  
Dave Koskela  
Dorothy VanderKieft  
Cyril VanLoke  
Jim Messineo  
Jeff Bristow  
Tim Phillips

Social Concerns  
2008 Annual Report

The Social Concerns Committee has been highlighting groups that need either financial or other assistance **through** its "Emphasis of the Month" for several years now. Each time we, as a committee, meet to discuss which groups to highlight, we are reminded of how many worthy causes there are! We attempt to bring a variety to your attention-some local, some national, some directly associated with the ELCA, some not, some with direct connections to Emmanuel, some not. We have asked for suggestions in the past and we have gotten some good ideas. We hope you will bring things to our attention that you believe could benefit from our "Emphasis of the Month." It is a ministry that we feel Emmanuel should continue. You have generously supported this program all along, and we believe it is but one way we can reach out and use our gifts to help **others**.

This year we again supported a variety of groups. They included Livonia Nursing and Rehabilitation Center; Angela Hospice, Special Olympics, Seedlings, Action (an agency that works hand in hand with LSSM), Angel's Place, ELCA World Hunger, Hamtramck schools, Westland Convalescent Center, American Red Cross, Salvation Army and Good Hope Food Pantry, **just to name** some. Other folks within our congregation have asked for your support for other agencies too. We thank you for your support for all of these groups, **just** as they thank you!

When Pastor Eggleston was here, he said that as Christians, we should always be thinking of new ways to serve the Lord. One of the ways we can do this is **by** using our financial gifts to help others. We will continue into **this** New Year highlighting groups that you can support through your giving to Emmanuel. We look forward to working with you in this ministry.

In Christ's Name

Jackie Rau  
Marilyn Kramer  
Ursula Martin  
Judy Martin  
Sandy Bassett  
Dennis Rau

## STATISTICAL REPORT

### MEMBERSHIP:

December 31, 2007: confirmed, 479; baptized, 63

December 31, 2008: confirmed, 402; baptized 580

### MEMBERSHIP CHANGES:

#### Additions:

Transfers.. ..  
Affirmation of Faith. . . . .confirmed, 2  
Reactivation.. ..  
Baptized.. . . .children, 10

#### Losses:

Moved.. . . .confirmed, 16; baptized, 6  
Transfer.. . . .confirmed, 3;  
Stat Adj. . . . .confirmed, 62; baptized, 13  
Deceased.. . . .3

### BAPTISMS:

Margaret Potter	2/10/2008	Bryce Vande Kieft	4/13/2008
Quentin Potter	2/10/2008	Bennett Binkert	4/20/2008
MacKenzie Dewhirst	3/30/2008	Nicholas Renberg	9/07/2008
Madison Dewhirst	3/30/2008	Christopher Barlow	11/23/2008
William Bruhoff	3/30/2008	Lydia Beauvais	12/07/2008

### CONFIRMATION – 5/18/2008

Brian Baumgartner	Tanner Jackson
Sheridan Konczal	Brett McDonald
Edward Schaller	Andrea Prebenda

### OFFICIAL ACTS:

#### Marriage

Bryan Mendez & Emily Engelman 9/20/2008

#### Burials and Memorials

Ruth Grandahl	2/29/2008	(Pastor Dana Runestad officiating)
Frank Johnson	4/20/2008	Richard Love 10/25/2008
Rita Connor	6/1 112008	Ilene Gallinat 10/31/2008
Margaret Gerby	8/10/2008	Edith Stilwell 12/08/2008
Jeffrey Beitzel	9/13/2008	